

general-purpose digital television platform of a decoder, comprising the steps of:

- storing a boot loader including filter fields specific to the decoder definitively on manufacture in a protected and non-rewritable memory zone of the platform;

- periodically broadcasting a message identifying the platform and containing operating software making the platform suitable for decoding a data stream of a television signal of an operator and for processing services of said operator periodically in a digital television signal that comes from each of the operators that made an agreement with a manufacturer of the platform and that is designed to be accessible, each of said messages having an electronic signature;

- on reception, filtering messages containing the operating software and identifying the platform and the operator in response to a user selection command, using the filter fields and writing said messages into a rewritable program memory.

12/ A method according to claim 11, wherein the operating software is transmitted in the form of data to be programmed in said rewritable memory, in the form of data blocks each copied at a respective address of the writable memory and supplied in the header of the block.

13/ A method according to claim 12, wherein said data blocks are each preceded by a header block comprising a description of the respective application and a description of each of the data blocks.

14/ A method according to claim 13, wherein each said data block includes an error correction code.

15/ A method according to claim 13 , wherein the header includes at least one of the following fields:

- an identity of the platform manufacturer ;
- a hardware version of the platform);
- a mode of acquisition of the decoder by a customer ;
- an identity of the current version of the software ; and
- an individual serial number of the decoder .

16/ A method according to claim 2, wherein SI or PSI information is associated with each said broadcast message containing operating software and said information includes at least one of a plurality of fields selected among:

- identity of a manufacturer of the platform;
- hardware version of the platform;
- decoder acquisition mode;
- identity of a current version of software loaded in the platform; and
- an individual serial number of the decoder.

17/ A method according to claim 14, wherein each of the data blocks is associated with an encrypted signature included in the header, and in that the header itself includes an encrypted signature.

8/ A system for downloading application software into digital television decoder platforms, comprising:

- in each of said platforms, a general-purpose processor module that is independent of any television operator, that contains identification keys, and that is arranged: